

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~in a~~ The dye-donor element of claim 31,
~~for thermal dye transfer comprising a support having on side thereof a dye layer~~
~~and on the other side a slipping layer, the improvement wherein said slipping layer~~
comprises at least three different waxes, ~~a~~the polymer derived from ~~a~~the
polyolefin and ~~an~~the ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid or ester or
anhydride thereof, a highly branched α -olefin polymer, and at least one other
wax.

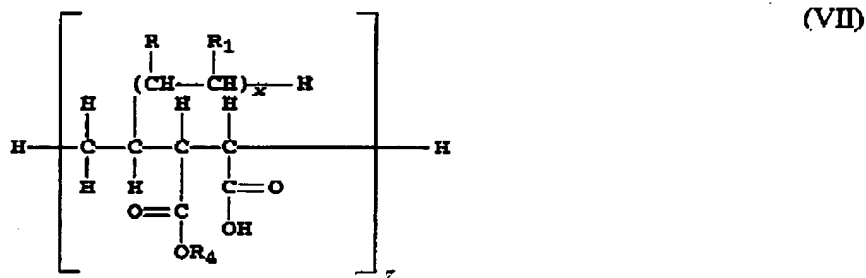
2. (Currently Amended) The element of claim ~~31~~ wherein the
polyolefin is derived from an α -olefin containing between about two to about
eight carbon atoms.

3. (Original) The element of claim 2 wherein the α -olefin is
ethylenic and/or propylenic.

4. (Currently Amended) The element of claim ~~31~~ wherein the
ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acids are those having between about 3 to
about 12 carbon atoms.

5. (Currently Amended) The element of claim ~~31~~ wherein the
ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid, ester or anhydride is maleic acid,
ethylmaleic acid, propylmaleic acid, isopropyl maleic acid, fumaric acid,
methylenemalonic acid, glutaconic acid, itaconic acid, methylitaconic acid,
mesacomic acid ~~and~~, citraconic acid, or a mixture thereof and their mixtures, as
well as ~~the~~ corresponding esters, anhydrides ~~and~~ or mixtures of such acids, esters
and anhydrides.

6. (Currently Amended) The element of claim ~~31~~ wherein the
~~solid~~ polymer is of the structural formula:



wherein R and R₁ individually represent hydrogen or a C₁ to C₁₀ alkyl group; x is 9 to 75; R₄ is a hydrogen or a C₁-C₃ alkyl group; and z is ~~between~~ from about 5 to about 20.

7. (Currently Amended) The element of Claim ~~131~~ wherein the ~~solid~~ polymer is an α -olefin maleic anhydride copolymer.

8. (Currently Amended) The element of Claim 7 wherein the ~~solid~~ polymer is an a maleic anhydride polyethylene graft copolymer.

9. (Original) The element of Claim 7 wherein the α -olefin of the α -olefin maleic anhydride copolymer has a chain length of C₁₀ to C₅₀.

10. (Currently Amended) The element of Claim 7 wherein a ratio of α -olefin:anhydride ~~the α -olefin:anhydride~~ of the α -olefin maleic anhydride copolymer is 1:1 to 1:4 in terms of weight.

11. (Currently Amended) The element of Claim ~~131~~ wherein the ~~solid~~ polymer is a copolymer of an α -olefin and isopropyl maleate.

12. (Currently Amended) The element of claim ~~1211~~ wherein ~~the~~ molar ratio of α -olefin:isopropyl maleate in the copolymer is about 1:1.

13. (Currently Amended) The element of Claim 1 wherein the at least one other wax is a substantially linear wax ~~is selected from the group~~

consisting of microcrystalline wax, carnauba wax, petronable wax, paraffin wax, candelilla wax and low molecular weight polyethylene.

14. (Currently Amended) The element of Claim 1 wherein the slipping layer comprises 10 to 80 percent by weight of the polymer derived from a polyolefin and an ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid or ester or anhydride thereof, ~~10e-10~~ 10 to 80 percent by weight of the highly branched α -olefin polymer, and 10 to 80 percent by weight of the at least one other wax comprising a substantially linear wax.

15. (Currently Amended) The element of Claim 1 wherein the at least one other wax is a substantially linear wax ~~is comprising~~ a saturated hydrocarbon polymer.

16. (Currently Amended) The element of Claim 1 wherein the at least one other wax is a substantially linear wax ~~is comprising~~ a linear low molecular weight polyethylene.

17. (Original) The element of Claim 1 wherein the branched alpha-olefin has a number average molecular weight of no more than about 10,000 and a melting point or softening point of no more than about 120°C.

18. (Original) The element of Claim 17 wherein the branched alpha-olefin has a number average molecular weight of at least 300.

19. (Original) The element of Claim 17 wherein the branched alpha-olefin has a number average molecular weight of 400 to 5000.

20. (Original) The element of Claim 17 wherein the branched alpha-olefin has a number average molecular weight of 1000 to 3000.

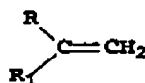
21. (Original) The element of Claim 17 wherein the branched alpha-olefin has a melting point or softening point of 35 to 110°C.

22. (Original) The element of Claim 17 wherein the branched alpha-olefin has a melting point or softening point of 50 to 100°C.

23. (Original) The element of Claim 17 wherein the branched alpha-olefin has a degree of branching of about 4 to about 15.

24. (Original) The element of Claim 17 wherein the branched alpha-olefin has a degree of branching of about 5 to about 10.

25. (Original) The element of Claim 17 wherein the branched alpha-olefin comprises a polymerized alpha-olefin prepared from alpha-olefins having the formula:



where R is C₆ to C₅₀ alkyl and R¹ is hydrogen or C₆ to C₅₀ alkyl, wherein the polymerized alpha-olefin has a number average molecular weight of 500 to 5000.

26 - 29. (Canceled)

30. (new) The element of claim 1, wherein the support comprises polyethylene terephthalate.

31. (new) A dye-donor element for thermal dye transfer comprising a support having on one side a dye layer and on a second side a slipping layer, wherein the slipping layer comprises a first wax comprising a polymer derived from a polyolefin and an ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid or ester or anhydride thereof, and at least one other wax.

32. (new) The element of claim 31, wherein the support comprises polyethylene terephthalate.

33. (new) The element of Claim 31 wherein the other wax is an olefinic wax.

34. (new) The element of Claim 31 wherein the other wax does not comprise a polymer derived from an ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid or ester or anhydride thereof.

35. (new) The element of Claim 31 wherein the other wax is a synthetic wax comprising a saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon.

36. (new) The element of Claim 31 wherein the other wax is selected from the group consisting of a mineral wax, a vegetable wax, an animal wax or a synthetic wax that is a saturated or unsaturated hydrocarbon polymer.

37. (new) The element of Claim 31 wherein the ratio of the first wax to the other wax is 5:1 to 1:10.

38. (new) The element of Claim 31 wherein the other wax is a saturated hydrocarbon polymer.

39. (new) The element of Claim 31 wherein the other wax is a linear low molecular weight polyethylene.

40. (new) The element of Claim 31 wherein the other wax is a branched hydrocarbon with a number average molecular weight of no more than about 10,000 and a melting point or softening point of no more than about 120°C.

41. (new) The element of Claim 40 wherein the branched hydrocarbon has a number average molecular weight of at least 300.

42. (new) The element of Claim 40 wherein the branched hydrocarbon has a number average molecular weight of 400 to 5000.

43. (new) The element of Claim 40 wherein the branched hydrocarbon has a number average molecular weight of 1000 to 3000.

44. (new) The element of Claim 40 wherein the branched hydrocarbon has a melting point or softening point of 35 to 110°C.

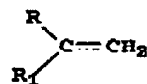
45. (new) The element of Claim 40 wherein the branched hydrocarbon has a melting point or softening point of 50 to 100°C.

46. (new) The element of Claim 40 wherein the branched hydrocarbon has a degree of branching of about 4 to about 15.

47. (new) The element of Claim 40 wherein the branched hydrocarbon has a degree of branching of about 5 to about 10.

48. (new) The element of Claim 40 wherein the branched hydrocarbon is a poly- α -olefin wax.

49. (new) The element of Claim 40 wherein the branched hydrocarbon comprises a polymerized alpha-olefin prepared from alpha-olefins having the formula:



where R is C₆ to C₅₀ alkyl and R¹ is hydrogen or C₆ to C₅₀ alkyl, wherein the polymerized alpha-olefin has a number average molecular weight of 500 to 5000.

50. (new) The element of claim 31, wherein the slipping layer comprises a reaction product of maleic anhydride and monoisopropyl maleate as

the polymer derived from a polyolefin and an ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid or ester or anhydride thereof, a polyalphaolefin, and an ethane homopolymer.

51. (new) A process of forming a dye transfer image comprising:

(a) imagewise-heating a dye-donor element comprising a support having on one side thereof a dye layer and on a second side a slipping layer comprising a lubricating material, the lubricating material comprising a solid polymer derived from a polyolefin and an ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid or ester or anhydride thereof and at least one other wax; and

(b) transferring a dye image to a dye receiving element to form said dye transfer image.

52. (new) The process of Claim 51 wherein the solid polymer is an α -olefin maleic anhydride copolymer.

53. (new) The process of Claim 52 wherein the α -olefin of the α -olefin maleic anhydride copolymer has a chain length of C10 to C50.

54. (new) The process of claim 51, wherein the slipping layer comprises at least three different waxes, the polymer derived from the polyolefin and the ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid or ester or anhydride thereof, a highly branched α -olefin polymer, and at least one other wax.

55. (new) A thermal dye transfer assemblage comprising

(a) a dye-donor element comprising a support having on one side thereof a dye layer and on the other side a slipping layer comprising lubricating material, wherein the lubricating material comprises a solid polymer derived from a polyolefin and an ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid or ester or anhydride thereof and at least one other wax; and

(b) a dye receiving element comprising a support having thereon a dye image-receiving layer,

wherein the dye-receiving element is in a superposed relationship with the dye-donor element such that the dye layer is in contact with the dye image-receiving layer.

56. (new) The process of Claim 55 wherein the solid polymer is an α -olefin maleic anhydride copolymer.

57. (new) The process of Claim 56 wherein the α -olefin of the α -olefin maleic anhydride copolymer has a chain length of C10 to C50.

58. (new) The process of claim 55, wherein the slipping layer comprises at least three different waxes, the polymer derived from the polyolefin and the ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid or ester or anhydride thereof, a highly branched α -olefin polymer, and at least one other wax.